

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07
NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3463
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS MUSCAT 1123

MANAMA FOR DODSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID EFIN BENC MU
SUBJECT: SAUDIS SIGN AGREEMENTS FOR DHOFAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. ON JULY 21, 1977, SAUDI ARABIA SIGNED FOUR SEPARATE AGREE-
MENTS WITH OMANGOV TO ASSIST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN DHOFAR.
ALL THE
SAUDI MONEY, ABOUT \$95 MILLION IN ALL, WILL COME THROUGH
MEDIUM OF THE SAUDI DEVELOPMENT FUND.

2. THE SAUDIS AGREED TO PROVIDE A LOAN OF \$37 MILLION FOR
FINANCING ROADS IN THE DHOFAR MOUNTAINS AND, SEPARATELY, AN
ADDITIONAL \$37 MILLION COVERING REMAINDER OF PROJECT COSTS.
THE PLANNED ALL-WEATHER ROAD NETWORK OF 153 KILOMETERS WILL
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GIVE YEAR-ROUND ACCESS TO MOUNTAIN VILLAGES WHICH ARE NOW
ISOLATED BY THE MONSOON. TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION,
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, IS 1981.

3. THE THIRD AGREEMENT PROVIDES A LOAN OF \$10.7 MILLION
FOR FINANCING CONSTRUCTION OF 16 ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS IN
THE DHOFAR MOUNTAINS. THE CENTERS WILL INCLUDE CLINICS,

SCHOOLS, SHOPS, POLICE STATIONS, MOSQUES, AND RESIDENCES FOR THE DEPUTY GOVERNORS IN THE JEBEL. KUWAIT IS CONTRIBUTING \$1.8 MILLION FOR THIS PROJECT. THE SAUDIS BY THE FOURTH NEW AGREEMENT ARE TO PROVIDE ANOTHER \$10.7 MILLION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE PROJECT COSTS. THE OMAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS EXPECTS TO COMPLETE THE CENTERS BY THE END OF 1979.

4. COMMENT: SAUDI AID TO DHOFAR JEBEL DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN PLANNED SINCE DECEMBER 1975, AND THESE AGREEMENTS SIGNAL THAT THE MONEY WILL FINALLY START ARRIVING. THE OMANIS SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS IN THE JEBEL AS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT STEP IN DHOFAR PACIFICATION. OMANGOV SPENDING IN DHOFAR HAS BEEN TIGHTLY CONTROLLED THIS YEAR, AND SAUDI FUNDS SHOULD PROVIDE A WELCOME BOOST TO THE DEPRESSED DHOFAR ECONOMY.
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Message Attributes

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